



PLACER COUNTY
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UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: **Saturday, October 15, 2005**
Date/Time of Occurrence: **Thursday, October 6, 2005**
Nature of Call: **Person of Interest Arrested on Unrelated Charges**
Location of Call: **Auburn**
Case Number: **SO-05-14745**
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant 530-889-7862**

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:



Mario Garcia

An Auburn man who is considered a person of interest in the disappearance of Christie Wilson was arrested on unrelated charges Friday evening by Placer County Sheriff's detectives.

Mario Flavio Garcia, 53, was taken into custody at 5:15 p.m. Friday near his home on weapons charges, which stem from items taken from him during the service of search warrants.

Garcia is being held on \$1 million bail at the Placer County Jail, an amount requested by the Sheriff's Department due to the fact that he is considered a person of interest in Wilson's disappearance.

Christie Wilson, 27, of Sacramento, was last seen on surveillance videotape walking out of the Thunder Valley Casino near Lincoln with Garcia in the early morning hours of October 5. Her boyfriend reported her missing October 6 after he found her car parked in the casino parking lot.

Also Friday, Placer County Sheriff's detectives conducted interviews with casino staff that helped establish the relationship formed between Garcia and Wilson while the pair gambled together.

Friday, the Department of Justice reported that preliminary tests performed on hair found in Garcia's car could be Wilson's. The hair is now undergoing DNA testing. The Sheriff's Department continues their ongoing search for Wilson and every possible lead is being followed. Areas that Garcia may be familiar with are also being searched. Anyone with information on Wilson's whereabouts is urged to contact the department at (530) 889-7867.

Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>